

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A distance measuring apparatus, having a plurality of distance measuring regions, for calculating autofocus data ~~based on the basis of~~ a plurality of distance measurement values acquired in ~~said~~ ~~the~~ plurality of distance measuring regions, said distance measuring apparatus comprising:

distance measurement value selecting means for detecting ~~the~~ ~~a~~ shortest distance measurement value corresponding to ~~the~~ ~~a~~ shortest distance among the plurality of distance measurement values, and selecting the distance measurement values that differ from the shortest distance measurement value by a value less than a ~~predetermined~~ threshold value;

first computing means for calculating ~~as~~ a first correction value, ~~which is~~ the mean value of ~~the~~ difference values between the shortest distance measurement value and the ~~selected~~ distance measurement values selected;

second computing means for detecting ~~the farthest~~ a longest distance measurement value corresponding to ~~the farthest~~ a longest distance among the ~~selected~~ distance measurement values selected, and calculating ~~as~~ a second correction value, ~~which is~~ 1/2 of the difference between the shortest distance measurement value and the ~~farthest~~ longest distance measurement value; and

third computing means for calculating the autofocus data by correcting the shortest distance measurement value, using the first correction value as ~~the adopted~~ a correction value if the second correction value is ~~greater~~ larger than the first correction value, and using the second correction value as the ~~adopted~~ correction value if the second correction value is less than the first correction value.

2. (Currently Amended) The distance measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ threshold value is variable.

3. (Currently Amended) A camera comprising the distance measuring apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ threshold value is ~~determined~~ based on a circle of confusion.